

Appl. No. 10/711,666
Amdt. dated April 11, 2006
Reply to Office action of January 23, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Assadi (US 6,642,963).

5 **Response:**

The applicant would like to point out how claim 1 is patentably distinguished from the Assadi patent. Claim 1 contains the limitation "forming a light blocking member between adjacent color filters". As shown in Fig.4 of the instant application, the light blocking member 130 is formed between adjacent color filters 125b and 125g. The light blocking member 130 prevents light that is filtered by a color filter of one color from being emitted onto a photosensor element 122 corresponding to a different colored color filter.

On the other hand, Assadi teaches in Fig.2 that the infrared blocking filter 174 is disposed above a lens assembly 173, which in turn is disposed above the image sensor 175. As Assadi teaches in column 3, lines 57-61, the infrared blocking filter 174 serves to inhibit infrared light from striking the image sensor device 105.

Therefore, Assadi fails to teach the claimed limitation of "forming a light blocking member between adjacent color filters", as is recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Assadi's infrared blocking filter 174 serves a different purpose from that of the claimed light blocking member, and does not serve to separate the color filters of an image sensor from each other.

Claim 1 also contains the limitation "forming a plurality of microlenses on the plurality of color filters", as is illustrated by the plurality of microlenses 124b and 124g disposed above the color filters 125b and 125g.

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In contrast, Assadi shows in Fig.2 that only a single lens assembly 173 is placed above image sensor 175. Assadi therefore does not teach forming a plurality of microlenses on the plurality of color filters.

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Moreover, the main point of Assadi's teaching is providing a silylation layer that acts as a sealant to protect the filter material of the device from degradation particularly by moisture, temperature, and aging (column 3, lines 6-10). Assadi does not teach separating color filters from each other using light blocking members.

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For these reasons, the applicant submits that claim 1 is patentably distinguished from Assadi, and Assadi does not anticipate the invention recited in claim 1. Claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 1-5 is respectfully requested.

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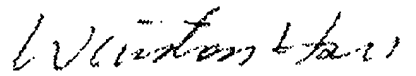
In view of the above statements in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,



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